

Class Piano Exemption Information

Students who have had previous piano instruction or experience may wish to consider testing out of one or more semesters of class piano.

Since the class piano curriculum is based primarily on functional skills such as **harmonizing**, **transposing**, and **sight-reading**, it is important that candidates consider their background in keyboard harmony and theory as well—solo performance repertoire alone is not necessarily a good predictor of one's ability to exempt out of a piano class.

Exemption Exam Procedure

- 1) Students should carefully review the exemption requirements, and assess which semester(s) they would like to exempt.
- 2) Students only have to perform the test for the latest semester they wish to exempt. For example, a student wishing to exempt Piano I, II, and III would only play the exam for Piano III.
- 3) The grade received on the exemption test will be the grade received for the course on the student's transcript. Students testing out of multiple semesters will receive that grade for all semesters exempted.
- 4) Exemption exams must be scheduled **by appointment** with Dr. Huang. E-mail grace.huang@uga.edu to set up a time. Appointments cannot be scheduled at the last minute – allow a **minimum of one week** for scheduling an exam time.
- 5) Students are responsible for verifying the exact content of the exam when they schedule their appointment. Please review the exemption requirements carefully (listed below).
- 6) Students must be well prepared for an exemption exam. The exemption exam is not designed for students to “test” their abilities and see what grade they might get. Please do not schedule an exam unless you are well prepared. Class piano TAs can be available for tutoring and preparation sessions.
- 7) Exemption exams **will not be heard during jury/finals week.**
- 8) All students must pass the Piano Proficiency Exam before graduating. This is a nine-part exam given to students during Piano IV. Students wishing to exempt all four semesters of class piano will take this exam. **This exam requires extensive preparation and a minimum of 30 minutes to complete.** Please plan ahead and allow sufficient time to prepare before scheduling a proficiency exemption.
- 9) Any and all questions should be directed to Dr. Huang via e-mail (grace.huang@uga.edu).

Exemption Exam Requirements

MUSI 2500: Class Piano I

1) Major Scales, 2 octaves, hands separate, with correct fingerings, in the following keys:

C, G, D, A, E, F, B, F#, C#/Db majors

Scales must be played with correct fingerings (consult Alfred's The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios, & Cadences)

2) Chord Progression: I - IV^{6/4} - I - V^{6/5} - I (contact Dr. Huang for handout)

Hands together, all 12 major and 12 minor keys (use i and iv chords for the minor keys)

3) Prepared Harmonization: "Camptown Races" (contact Dr. Huang for handout)

Play a two-handed accompaniment using the primary chords indicated on the handout (instructor plays melody)

4) Solo Repertoire (choose/prepare ONE piece from the ones listed below) **

pg. 14, pg. 15, or pg. 16-17 from *Journey Through The Classics, Vol. 1*, by Jennifer Linn

*** Substituted solos of comparable difficulty are allowed ONLY WITH PRIOR APPROVAL.
Please contact Dr. Huang if you wish to substitute a solo piece.*

5) Sight Reading

MUSI 2510: Class Piano II

- 1) Scales, hands separate (2 octaves):** C, G, D, A, E, F, B harmonic minors
Scales, hands separate (2 octaves): C, G, D, A, E, F, B, F#/Gb, C#/Db majors

Scales must be played with correct fingerings (consult Alfred's The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios, & Cadences)

- 2) Prepared Harmonization** (“Bring a Torch”—contact Dr. Huang for this handout)

Prepare “Bring a Torch” 2 ways:

- play RH melody with LH accompaniment (use given chord symbols), in original key —LH accompaniment should be in a pattern other than blocked chords (waltz bass, broken chord, etc.)
- play a 2-handed accompaniment (instructor plays melody) in a transposed key chosen at random at the exam. Prepare this 2-hand accompaniment in all major keys with key signatures up to 3 sharps/3 flats

- 3) Solo Repertoire** (choose/prepare ONE work from the approved list below) **

p. 24, p. 41, p. 71, or p. 122-123 (from *Essential Keyboard Repertoire, Vol. 1*, by Lynn Freeman Olson)

*** Substituted solos of comparable difficulty are allowed ONLY WITH PRIOR APPROVAL. Please contact Dr. Huang if you wish to substitute a solo piece.*

- 4) Sight Transposition**

Sight transposition of a hands-together piece (LH will include I, IV, V7 chords, as well as ii, iii, and vi chords)

Transposed key will be selected at random—prepare major keys up to 3 sharps/3 flats

- 5) Sight Reading**

MUSI 2520: Class Piano III

1) “Facility in a Key” in white-key minors (C, D, E, F, G, A, B minors)—for each key, be able to play all of the following:

- a) 2 octave scale, hands separately, with correct fingering (use harmonic for minor)
- b) 3 octave arpeggio, hands separately, with correct fingering
- c) Primary chord progression: I – IV – I – V7 – I (contact Dr. Huang for handout)
- d) Melodic improvisation in the given key

Scales and Arpeggios must be played with correct fingerings (consult the Alfred edition of The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios, & Cadences)

2) Prepared Harmonization using secondary dominant chords (“Worried Man Blues”—contact Dr. Huang for handout)

Play the harmonization 2 ways:

- a) RH Melody with LH chord pattern in ORIGINAL key,
- b) 2-handed accompaniment (instructor plays melody) in a TRANSPOSED key (key chosen at random in exam; prepare all major keys up to 3 sharps/3 flats)

3) Prepared Hymn (“Italian Hymn”—contact Dr. Huang for handout)

Play “Italian Hymn” in a steady tempo, with appropriate pedaling

4) Prepared Solo Repertoire **

Prepare ONE work from *Essential Keyboard Repertoire, Vol. I* (L.F. Olson), chosen from:

pg. 43, 62, 72, 74, 78, or 109

*** Substituted solos of comparable difficulty are allowed ONLY WITH PRIOR APPROVAL. Please contact Dr. Huang if you wish to substitute a solo piece*

5) Sight Reading and Sight Transposition

Transposed key will be selected at random (any major key up to 3 sharps/3 flats)

MUSI 2530: Class Piano IV

PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM

This exam is required of ALL music majors and is given at the end of the MUSI 2530 semester in the Spring.

Please contact Dr. Huang for requirements and questions about taking the piano proficiency exam to test out of all 4 semesters of class piano.

This exam includes all 24 major and harmonic minor scales, two prepared harmonizations with secondary dominant chords, transposition of prepared harmonizations to keys up to 3 sharps or 3 flats, a prepared hymn, 2 prepared contrasting solo pieces, sight reading, sight transposition, sight harmonization, and score reading, which includes instrumental transposition.

Any and all questions should be directed to Dr. Huang via e-mail (grace.huang@uga.edu).